

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and rejected claims 16, 18 and 19 based on the Arndt et al. article and United States Patent No. 6,284,697 (Windisch et al.).

Applicant has incorporated claims 17 and 18 into independent claim 16. In addition, Applicant has included "an yttrium alkoxide" in claim 16 on the basis of paragraph 0033 and Examples in the specification.

Applicant believes that claim 16 as amended is patentable because yttrium compounds disclosed in Arndt et al. and Windisch et al. are completely different from the yttrium compound of claim 16 as amended. That is, Arndt et al. and Windisch et al. do not disclose or suggest "the yttrium compound being one of an yttrium compound having a bulky ligand in the following general formula, an yttrium alkoxide, and an yttrium compound comprising a carboxylate" as in claim 16. The catalyst of claim 16 facilitates manufacture of a conjugated diene polymer with high 1,4-cis structure content, leaves less aluminum residue on polymerization, and has high activity. Accordingly, claim 16 as amended is patentably distinguished over Arndt et al. and Windisch et al., and would not be obvious.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the present application should be allowed. Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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